

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a 409 to 1 vote, legislation to name the building that houses the U.S. Interior Department in Washington, D.C. after the late Stewart Udall passed the House of Representatives today. H.R.5128 was introduced on Earth Day last month to honor former U.S. Interior Secretary Udall's legacy. The bill would rename the Department of the Interior Building the "Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building."

The bill was introduced by Congressman Martin Heinrich, and Congressmen Harry Teague and Ben Ray Lujan signed on as original cosponsors of the measure. U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

"Secretary Udall's work to protect our most significant public spaces and his commitment to public service are renowned. Naming the Department of Interior building in his honor is a small step in helping preserve his legacy," said **Sen. Bingaman**, who chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "I will work to ensure that this bill passes the Senate as quickly as possible, so that we can send it to the president for his signature."

"Just as Secretary Udall's legacy lives on in our national parks and protected lands, his memory will continue to be honored at the Department of Interior, the agency where so many of his accomplishments remain as policies today," said **Rep. Harry Teague**. "He was truly one of the great stewards of our environment and it is more than appropriate that he and his accomplishments are remembered in this way."

"Though quiet and humble, his impact was that of a giant, and his defense of our nation's

environment will remain immeasurable,” said **Rep. Heinrich** of the late Stewart Udall yesterday during a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives. “However, Secretary Udall’s lifetime of work will continue to be felt by every American. Thanks to his work, our national parks and public lands now belong to every American and will remain a treasured part of our nation’s spirit for generations to come.”

“Secretary Udall’s work is seen across the country, from our pristine wilderness to our clean rivers,” said **Rep. Ben Ray Luján**. “And his legacy is also seen in the people he impacted throughout his life -- from those in Indian Country who suffered the effects of uranium mining to young conservationists. In naming the Department of Interior building after Secretary Udall, we honor not only his incredible professional contributions—we honor a wonderful, compassionate person who tirelessly fought for both our resources and for the people who depend on them.”

Stewart Udall, the father of U.S. Senator Tom Udall (D-NM), was the U.S. Interior Secretary from 1961 to 1969, serving in the cabinets of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. He also served in the U.S. Congress from 1955 to 1961. Stewart Udall died on March 20, 2010.

H.R.5128 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

[Click here](#) to watch Congressman Teague speak on the House floor in support of the resolution

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